

**News Release**

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**FIRSTENERGY COMPANIES TO HIRE UP TO 3,000  
SYSTEM-WIDE THROUGH 2007**

FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) today announced plans to hire up to 3,000 employees through 2007, with approximately 1,600 expected to be hired in 2005 and 2006. FirstEnergy companies currently have more than 13,000 employees in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

"Like most U.S. companies, we will need to replace highly skilled and experienced employees who retire over the next several years," said President and Chief Executive Officer Anthony J. Alexander. "While some of these positions will be filled through promotions and reassignments, we will be aggressively recruiting talented and highly motivated people from outside our company to ensure that we continue to provide reliable, responsive service to our customers."

The hiring will occur across the company's subsidiaries, including FirstEnergy's generating plants and seven electric utility operating companies, as well as in a variety of technical and professional areas.

"In the coming years, there will be many opportunities for energetic, career-minded individuals who are looking to join a company that values hard work, innovation, and a commitment to safety, diversity and customer service," said Mr. Alexander. "And, we're especially pleased that our hiring plans will support the economic vitality of the communities we serve and of those where our facilities are located."

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In 2005 and 2006, approximately 745 positions will be available in Energy Delivery, 575 positions in power plants and support services, and 280 positions in corporate service areas. These will include engineering, business analysts, finance, dispatching, information systems, administrative, line and technical workers. Actual numbers of hires and locations will depend in large part on the number of employees who choose to retire in the next several years, as well as attrition and other factors.

"We are taking these steps now so that new employees will have adequate opportunities to benefit from working side-by-side with our experienced and knowledgeable staff," Mr. Alexander said. "We want to make sure there is sufficient time for a transfer of knowledge to occur through ongoing mentoring and on-the-job training."

FirstEnergy is a diversified energy company headquartered in Akron, Ohio. Its subsidiaries and affiliates are involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, as well as energy management and other energy-related services. Its seven electric utility operating companies comprise the nation's fifth-largest electric system, based on 4.4 million customers served within a 36,100-square-mile area of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

**Forward-Looking Statements:** This news release includes forward-looking statements based on information currently available to management. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties. These statements typically contain, but are not limited to, the terms "anticipate," "potential," "expect," "believe," "estimate" and similar words. Actual results may differ materially due to the speed and nature of increased competition and deregulation in the electric utility industry, economic or weather conditions affecting future sales and margins, changes in markets for energy services, changing energy and commodity market prices, replacement power costs being higher than anticipated or inadequately hedged, maintenance costs being higher than anticipated, legislative and regulatory changes (including revised environmental requirements), the receipt of approval from and entry of a final order by the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio, on the pending settlement agreement resolving the New Source Review litigation and the uncertainty of the timing and amounts of the capital expenditures (including that such amounts could be higher than anticipated) related to this settlement, adverse regulatory or legal decisions and outcomes (including revocation of necessary licenses or operating permits, fines or other enforcement actions and remedies) of government investigations, including by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the United States Attorney's Office and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as disclosed in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, generally, and with respect to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station outage in particular, the availability and cost of capital, the continuing availability and operation of generating units, our inability to accomplish or realize anticipated benefits from strategic goals, our ability to improve electric commodity margins and to experience growth in the distribution business, our ability to access the public securities and other capital markets, further investigation into the causes of the August 14, 2003 regional power outage and the outcome, cost and other effects of present and potential legal and administrative proceedings and claims related to the outage, the final outcome in the proceeding related to FirstEnergy's Application for a Rate Stabilization Plan in Ohio, the risks and other factors discussed from time to time in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, and other similar factors. We expressly disclaim any current intention to update any forward-looking statements contained herein as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.